number of projects to generate irrigation potential in the country;

(b) if so, the total irrigation potential generated so far in the country since Independence as well as total amount spent so far for this purpose; and

(c) the irrigation potential estimated to be generated in the country at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) To generate irrigation potential in the country a large number of irrigation projects have been constructed by the State Governments.

(b) The total irrigation potential created through Major, Medium & Minor irrigation projects starting from the inception of Plan-era 1951-52 upto the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan (March 1997) is 66.96 million hectares for which an amount of Rs. 68,770.14 crore has been spent.

(c) A target of 17.05 million hectares has been fixed for creation of irrigation potential during the current Ninth Five Year Plan period (1997—2002).

Construction of Sardar Sarovar Dam

782. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of construction of Sardar Sarovar Dam in the light of last proceedings of Hon'ble Supreme Court;

(b) what specific efforts being made for Dam to attain an obligatory minimum level of 110 metre by June, 1999;

(c) the progress made for shifting the Project-affected families by the Madhya Pradesh Government; and

(d) the efforts being made to remove obstacle for timely implementation of the Dam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) In pursuance of the interim order of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 18.2.99, the spillway blocks of the Sardar Sarovar Dam have been

raised from R. L. of 80.0 m to R.L. 85.0 m., excluding humps of 3m height constructed to ensure the safety of the dam.

(b) The issue of further raising of the dam is subjudice in the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(c) Out of 2574 of Project Affected Families from Madhya Pradesh 1,353 have already been resettled as on 31.8.1999. Out of the remaining 1221 families, 545 Project Affected Families are to be settled by Government of Madhya Pradesh, while 773 PAFs to be settled in Gujarat have been offered the package but have not accepted the same.

(d) Completion of the dam will depend on the outcome of the case filed by Narmada Bachao Andolan in the Supreme Court, pari passu implementation of resettlement & rehabilitation, availability of funds with the State Government and mutual cooperation between the party States i.e. Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. Efforts are being made by the States to carry out the resettlement & rehabilitation and mobilisation of resources. The Union Government through the Narmada Control Authority, Sardar Sarovar Construction Advisory Committee and Review Committee of Narmada Control Authority is making all efforts to ensure compliance of the provisions in the Narmada Water Dispute Tribunal Award by the party States for early completion of the project.

Central Plan for Prevention of Agricultural Land

783. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the facts that a number of villagers in Buxar and Bhojpur districts of Bihar and those on the banks of the Ganga River are losing the agricultural land due to the unusual change in the currents of Ganga river;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering any Central plan to prevent such erosion of agricultural land in these areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?